

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3400
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2000
PRICES OF PALMOLIN GROUNDNUT AND SUNFLOWER OIL
Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the price of the Palmolein, Groundnut and sunflower oil has reached an all time low; (
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether steep fall in the prices of Palmolein, Groundnut and Sunflower oil is expected to adversely affect the market for respective farm product; and
- (d) the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

(SHRIV. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b) : The prices of palmolein and sunflower oil have been low to subdued due to easy availability and low prices of edible oils in the international market. For groundnut oil prices, the same is not applicable.

(c) & (d) : The palmolein prices in the international market are subdued. This position is reflected in the prices of other oils also in the domestic market.

Some of the corrective measures taken by the Government to improve the situation are:-

(i) With effect from 30.11.1999, the import duty on refined oil has been raised from 16.5% to 27.5%.

(ii) Import of crude oil has been subject to 'actual user' condition. The implication is that the importers not complying with the requirement of the actual user condition will have to pay custom duty at peak rate of 38.5%.

(iii) Special Additional Duty @ 4% has also been imposed on import of refined oil and import of crude oils by other than actual users.

(iv) The High Powered Price Monitoring Board (HPPMB) under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary has been constituted. The Board monitors the availability and prices of essential commodities, including edible oils on weekly basis and takes appropriate corrective action.